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European Review

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6 June 1986

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	Yugoslavia's military party organization recently held its congress, spelling out its own views on the country's troubled political and economic systems. The meeting, convened in advance of the National Congress of the Communist Party in late June, gave the post-Tito leadership a somewhat stronger vote of confidence than military officials have on some other recent occasions and tempered its concern over the weak economy and rising ethnic nationalism and liberalism.	
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	Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov, dean of East Bloc rulers with 32 years in power, was elected in April to his seventh term as General Secretary with no indication that he intends to step down any time soon. He used Bulgaria's 13th Party Congress to call for economic modernization and to defend recent sweeping ministerial changes. These changes are unlikely to promote economic recovery but should keep Zhivkov's leading potential successors off balance for some time to come.	
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	The Turkish Navy's program to build four new MEKO 200-class frigates designed by West Germany is proceeding on schedule and should improve substantially the Navy's major surface combatant force, which currently consists mostly of former US ships of World War II vintage. If problems of sustained operations can be minimized, the new frigates will strengthen the Navy's capability against Warsaw Pact forces in the Black and Aegean Seas and keep it in competition with the larger naval forces of its ostensible NATO ally, Greece.	

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Briefs**West Germany-USSR****New Strains After Chernobyl**

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Public demands by Bonn for compensation for damages caused by the Chernobyl accident reflect growing West German aggravation with Moscow's handling of the incident and may portend a more assertive posture in general toward the USSR. A high-ranking West German official told the US Ambassador that Bonn is serious about claims for compensation and will consult with other European governments on possible approaches. He added that Bonn may even go to the International Court of Justice.

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Meanwhile, the West German public has witnessed an open exchange between Bonn and Moscow over the compensation issue. Chancellor Kohl's restatement of Bonn's claim in a speech in Munich drew a harsh rejoinder from *Pravda*, which, in turn, drew a stiff response from Economics Minister Bangemann. Interior Minister Zimmermann and the new Soviet Ambassador, Yuli Kvitsinskiy, also have exchanged charges in the West German press. Only Foreign Minister Genscher has counseled caution, warning against "self-righteous" accusations regarding Soviet behavior.

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The Kohl government's actions are probably intended, in part, to shore up its image on the eve of a crucial state election this month. West German farmers, an important Christian Democratic constituency, suffered losses from safety measures instituted after the accident, and Bonn would like Moscow to help cover the costs. Kohl probably would also like to turn public attention away from his administration's confused response to Chernobyl. The government's outspokenness may also presage a more aggressive response when Moscow criticizes Bonn on security issues. Recent Soviet statements have scored the West German role in INF, SDI, and chemical weapons modernization, and Chernobyl may have provided Bonn a convenient opportunity to reciprocate.

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Finland**Government Challenged on Nuclear Policy**

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Finland's Social Democratic Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa faced down a challenge from one of the partners in his center-left coalition government in late May. The Rural Party, which has been losing members to the Green Party—presumably for paying little attention to environmental issues—proposed that all Finnish nuclear plants be shut down by the year 2000.

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Finland is currently operating two Soviet- and two Swedish-built reactors and had been considering the purchase of an additional reactor from the USSR. Notwithstanding the government's decision to defer action on the additional reactor in the aftermath of the Chernobyl incident, the Rural Party's proposal was a clear challenge to the government's policy of encouraging the use of nuclear power.

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